

Shanghai Journal 2-1-16

Ni Hao,

Can't believe it is February already. Next Thursday we go to Angkor Wat for five days and then I return to New York two days later. Time here has really flown by, especially the last few days with a flurry of social events.

On Friday, NYU-Shanghai celebrated Chinese New Year with a big faculty/staff party. Lots of good food (though not much for vegetarians) and each department put on a performance – skits, songs, poems, dance, a fashion show with couture made from pages of books and magazines by the library staff. The coming year is the Year of the Monkey and the IT department did a very clever skit with monkey masks. The IT skit was our favorite last year too.



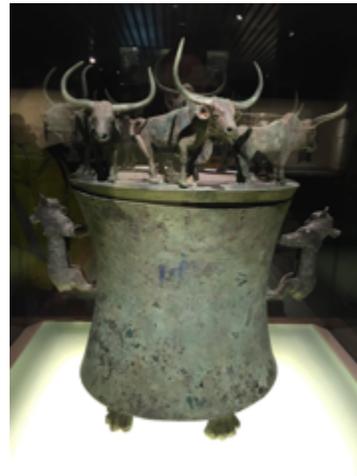
The next night we had a progressive dinner party in our residence. It was quite an international group representing China, Switzerland, France, Germany, Lithuania, India, Brazil, Israel, England, the U.S. (and probably others). I made guacamole and Ravi made lemon rice, both big hits. Someone from Germany made an amazing torte for dessert and another person made homemade bread (having to share the only

oven in the building). It was great to get to know some of our neighbors and hope we do it again.

Saturday morning, Ravi, Tom and I went to the Shanghai Museum and saw the galleries on bronze and porcelain. I'm always blown away by the age, beauty and craftsmanship, not to mention sheer volume of amazing pieces. Below are two bronzes and two porcelains I particularly like, just to give you a sense.



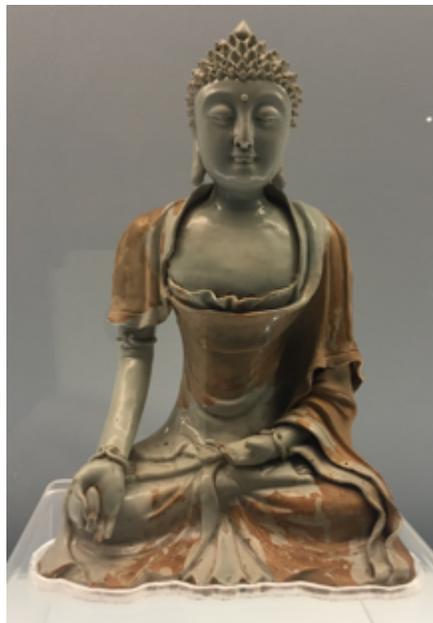
Ox-shaped wine vessel early 6th c. 476 B.C.



Cowrie-container with 8 yaks 206 B.C.-A.D. 8



Qing Bowl – 1723 - 1735



Glazed Jingdezhen Buddha 1271-1368

Yesterday morning we went to the Avocado Lady - a store in Puxi that we discovered through Time Out Shanghai where we can get all sorts of imported

things we can't get elsewhere – such as risotto, curry leaves, vegetable broth – to name a few. It is a real find and also not as expensive as the supermarkets. Hard to believe such a small space contains so much.

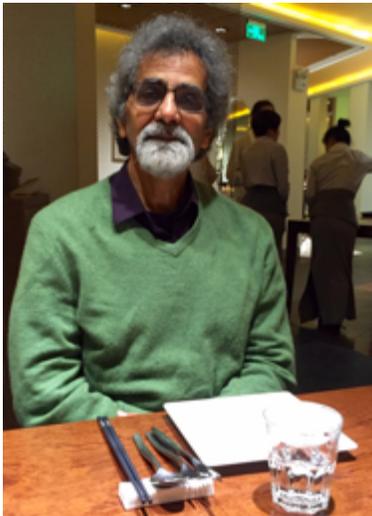


For the grand finale of our (rare) weekend of socializing, Tom treated us to dinner at Wujie, a Buddhist restaurant in the Bund. We had the set menu and I'm so glad we did. First of all, it was completely gorgeous to behold. And absolutely delicious! Here is the menu and a few of the courses. What a treat!





The oh so contented diners!



We leave for Cambodia on Thursday! Happy New Year! Lee and Ravi

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